Sir Ernest Doesn't Dig That Rock 'n' Roll

Canadian rock 'n' roll artists may as well not bother applying to the Canada Council for financial assistance, because the council doesn't dig that kind of jazz.

That, in effect, is a translated version of an opinion given by Canada's leading conductor, Sir Ernest MacMillan.

The famed conductor and member of the federal council for the arts is here to lead the Victoria Symphony Orchestra in a program at Duncan on Friday and concerts at the Royal Theatre in Victoria at 3 p.m. Sunday and 8.30 p.m. Monday.

Asked whether the council would give a grant to an upcoming rock 'n' roll hero, Sir Ernest said: "I don't think so."

"I don't know what the council would do, but I wouldn't favor it myself," he said. "It's supposed to be for cultural activities."

Commenting on often-heard western claims that eastern Canada is favored by these federal grants, Sir Ernest said: "You should hear what they say about it in the east."

"B.C. got a very large share last year," he said. "People seem to think we have hundreds of millions to divide up every year.

"People have no idea of the complexity of problems and the number of applications we have to deal with, and there will be accusations of favoritism wherever you are," Sir Ernest said.

Victoria Symphony Orchestra conductor Hans Gruber left yesterday to conduct the Edmonton orchestra in a single concert.

LOCAL NEWS

The Daily Colonist.

(ESTABLISHED 1858)

CLASSIFIED

SECOND NEWS SECTION — VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1959 — PAGE TWENTY-ONE

Uninsured Loss Leaves Family Destitute

Help Me Rebuild Mill, Father Asks

A Sooke Road father of four is seeking help to rebuild his small sawmill which was destroyed by fire Sunday.

The mill owner, Rod St. Pierre, 2614 Sooke Road, said he hoped to be able to rebuild within three or four weeks "with a loan from the bank, or a stake from a friend."

He said loss of his uninsured Langford sawmill on Happy Valley Road, which he had operated since 1954, left him without immediate means to support his wife and four young children.

He is hoping to get some kind of part-time work to tide him over until he gets the mill operating again. Neighbors have come to his aid with loans of food.

Fire at the isolated mill was actually spotted by friends, the owner said, but they failed to turn in an alarm or inform him because they thought he was burning slabwood "as I usually do on the weekends."

Langford fire department said no report on the fire, which destroyed between $3,000 and $4,000 worth of lumber and machinery, was turned in to them.

When it was finally reported to the mill owner around noon Monday that flames had been spotted at the mill the day before, he rushed to the scene to find his property a blackened ruin.

He blamed the fire on flames started in hot sawdust by high winds.

Young Clowns Ready for Fun

Clowning around with makeup during rehearsal for tomorrow night's Spring Carnival at Margaret Jenkins School —7 to 9 p.m.—are, from left, Colin Cameron, 11; Maureen Avery, 9; Allison Porter, 9; and Jack Taunton, 11. Carnival, sponsored by Margaret Jenkins-Bank Street PTA, will feature hobby and talent shows, home cooking stalls and a Punch and Judy show. —(Colonist photo)

Smith Tells House:

Arena Bill 'An Insult' To Victoria

Victoria city council is trying to legalize "an insult" to the people of Victoria, Donald Smith (SC, Victoria) charged in the legislature last night.

He was referring to the bill presented by George Gregory (Lib, Victoria) which will allow residents of Saanich, Esquimalt and Oak Bay to sit on the Victoria Civic Arena Commission if they are Victoria ratepayers.

FIVE ARE FIT

Mr. Smith termed the bill a "direct insult to the mental capabilities of Victoria taxpayers." He said there were 18,000 ratepayers in Victoria and surely five of them are fit to serve on the arena commission.

He pointed out the city council didn't insult the financial capabilities of Victoria ratepayers when it asked them to pay for the arena.

"There are no better people in this province than the people who live in Victoria," he said.

OFFER DECLINED

Mr. Gregory said Mr. Smith was being generous to civic voters "who declined his offer of service at the civic election in December, 1957." Mr. Smith ran for mayor and it is speculated he will seek that position this year.

The bill was given second reading in the House over the lone objection of Mr. Smith.

There are five members on the arena commission and the new bill provides for the city engineer and city manager to be non-voting, ex-officio members.

TWO ALDERMEN

Now all members must be residents of Victoria. The new bill extends the membership privileges to no more than two city council members (no members of city council are now allowed on the commission) and to residents of Greater Victoria who are Victoria ratepayers.

Women Urge Meetings At Night

Victoria Council of Women suggested in a letter to City Hall yesterday that council 'consider holding its meetings in the evening to enable more people to attend and stimulate interest in civic affairs.

"We've tried it before. It's not a success," said Ald. Arthur Dowell.

Socred Secrecy Slapped

Victoria MLA George Gregory yesterday suggested in the legislature to Premier Bennett that next election the government should "campaign on a platform of secrecy."

He was commenting on defeat by the government of a motion made by Archie Gibbs (Lib, Oak Bay) that the minister of finance (Premier Bennett) table in the House financial statements relating to the PGE Railway, sinking fund of provincial debt, sinking funds of Toll Highways and Bridge Authority, sinking funds of public schools debt and a dozen more government agency fiscal reports.

MISS BESS McGILLIVRAY

* * *

Seen In Passing

Miss Bess McGillivray checking a list of things to complete for the luncheon and tea she is convening for the Auxiliary to the Victoria Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. (The event will be opened by **Mrs. Frank M. Ross** at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Hudson's Bay Company's Douglas room. Miss McGillivray has been taking a bit of a holiday since the beginning of the year. She was formerly staff supervisor for a city building supplies firm) . . . **Lee Hallberg** denying emphatically that the gay shirt he was wearing was actually a pajama-top

Cheque Checker Checked

Police are seeking a man who put a number of cheques through a cheque-writing machine after barging into an investment dealer's office yesterday, claiming he represented the "head office" of the cheque machine company.

A. Donald Head, office manager for Hugh McKay & Co., 1220 Broad, said the B.C. agent, Frank L. Bott & Co. at Vancouver later told the Victoria firm there was no "head-office" representative in the area.

The man was given access to the machine after claiming he was "checking the machines in the area."

An employee of the investment firm took the licence number of his car after seeing him mark up some figures and then stamp them on cheques taken from his pocket.

247 Pints Blood Tallied in Drive

Victorians donated at least 150 pints of much needed Group O blood yesterday along with 97 pints of other groups during the first day of a two-day blood drive at Red Cross House. The clinic will continue today from 1.30 to 4.30 p.m. and 7 to 9.30 p.m. at headquarters at 1046 Fort.

Sooke's Target

Royal Treat For Royalty

Proud Sooke residents are determined to have Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip partake of the "royal treat" of All-Sooke Day July 18—especially the salmon barbecue.

A bid for a royal visit has already been made to this summer's tour officials, but Sooke is seeking to strengthen its case by having the city of Victoria support the bid.

Mrs. Kay Hancock, chairman of the tourist and publicity bureau of the Sooke-Jordan River Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that a letter requesting support has already been forwarded to Victoria city council.

"It would be a nice change for the royal couple," she said, "mainly because All-Sooke Day is so unique an affair.

"And it would be in keeping with the informal nature of the tour . . . there's no brass out here so there wouldn't be any of the usual reception lines and curtsying."

Mrs. Hancock said the chamber and Sooke Community Association (backers of All-Sooke Day) were aware the Queen was leaving this area the afternoon of July 18.

"But the 17th is listed as a day of rest for the Queen and the Duke," she said. "And we would be willing to put on some of the special things that day—like log birling and the salmon barbecue.

"Sooke certainly rates a royal visit. We've always been passed up during previous visits," she added.

Parks Body Ruin Feared

Mayor Percy Scurrah yesterday saw a possibility of collapse of the Victoria-Saanich beaches and parks committee because of the attitude of Saanich council.

The council decided this week to seek a commitment from city council that city-owned parks in Saanich will always be used as parks, before approving the municipality's one-third share of the committee's $12,000 budget.

"It will be a pity if the Victoria-Saanich beaches and parks committee collapses after so many years of successful co-operation and doing so much good work," Mayor Scurrah said. "In my opinion, the city certainly wouldn't feel like putting up the entire budget of the committee."

The committee looks after Elk and Beaver Lakes, Mount Douglas and Gorge Parks.

Coun. Leslie Passmore told Saanich council he had seen subdivision plans drawn up for Gorge Park.

"There's been a subdivision plan for years," said the mayor. "It's at least eight years old. As far as I know there has been no thought of doing anything. The matter has never been broached—not even mentioned."

Planner Criticizes Cautious

Councils Must Govern And People Must Pay

Over-cautious municipalities and residents who are reluctant to pay for municipal improvements were "pricked" last night by an architect's drawing-board tacks.

Criticisms were delivered by architect Brahm Weisman, director of the Capital Region Planning Board, who explained the planners' master plan to the Victoria branch of the Engineering Institute of Canada.

"Let's face it," he said, "muncipalities tend to adopt a 'laissez-faire' attitude toward change and growth."

They could play a "very decisive role" in the development of the capital region, Mr. Weisman said, but they continue to provide "only the minimum of services."

"Municipalities have got to accept some of the responsibility and start to govern," he said, and residents must face up to paying for a better place to live in too.

"People are prepared to pay a lot of money for many things these days—but not for municipal improvements."

Mr. Weisman said maybe this was because such improvements aren't advertised and pushed like cars and other commodities.

The planning director exploded a favorite claim of many Victorians when he said that "the tourist industry is one of the minor elements" of this area.

"Our study showed that this industry, while important, is not a major factor in regional development," he said.

Mr. Weisman predicted that the taxpayers would benefit in the long run from the plan, which covers the area to 1976.

"An orderly pattern of growth must save money . . . the only thing which would be costly is parks," and if the region put aside $100,000 a year for 10 or 15 years, park needs could be met.

"This is a fair hunk of dough," he said, "but it will buy up all the forested land this area will need in the foreseeable future."

Mr. Weisman said something must be done soon about providing east-west roads across Greater Victoria.

"For four miles you just can't get across the urban area at all," he said. "It doesn't make sense."

He said that the extension of Tattersall and Finlayson Streets might be the answer.

Mr. Weisman expressed approval of the Broad Street Mall and the parking garage.

"These are steps in the right direction," he said, "to help downtown Victoria from becoming unattractive."

The answer to clearing unsightly areas of the city might lie with the National Housing Act, which has a write-off system for acquiring property and demolishing old buildings.

Mr. Weisman said that cleaning up and rebuilding commercial areas might be achieved "if we had more civic pride.

"If we said to ourselves 'this is ugly, we don't want that here,' we might do something about it. But that sort of pride is practically non-existent in Canada."

Mr. Weisman wondered "if it might not be better that instead of aiming everything at the centre of the city, with super highways, we looked outward—with maybe Royal Oak as the centre."

Trade Union Act Comes Up Today

The controversial Trades Union Act will come before the legislature today, Premier Bennett announced last night.

The premier said the sitting will start off at 2 p.m. with private resolutions, then move to public bills, including Bill 43, the Trades Union Act. Then move on to consider estimates of the lands and forests department.

The premier said whether there is a night sitting will depend on how the business moves along, but in the corridor he was overheard telling a labor department official to be prepared to bring his mattress.

That looks like a sitting until the early hours of the morning. The CCF has promised not to let Bill 43 pass without a filibuster.

Labor is resigned to the fact it won't be able to stop the new Trade Union Act becoming law, William Black, president of the B.C. Labor Federation said yesterday following a meeting with Labor Minister Lyle Wicks.

"But it will be a black day for B.C. and I think the government will rue the day," he warned.

He said the B.C. Labor Federation will keep a constant delegation at the legislative buildings until the bill is enacted.

"We are very curious to hear the second reading and to hear what is said and why," he added.

Mr. Black indicated there are no immediate plans for a one-hour or one-day general labor strike, but added there has been considerable pressure by the unions for a general strike.

He said Mr. Wicks listened to the deliberations of the labor delegation, but said he could not discuss it until it had been before the House for second reading.

CCF Proposal

House Blocks Move To Control Phones

The provincial legislature yesterday voted down a CCF motion asking that the provincial government make application to the federal government to have the B.C. Telephone Co. revert to provincial jurisdiction.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said the idea was to have the rates and services of the telephone company controlled on behalif of th people of B.C. by the Public Utilities Commission.

"INADEQUATE JOB"

"The telephone company is not doing an adequate job and is charging too much for an inadequate job," Mr. Strachan said.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner said the federal Board of Transport Commissioners had a large and informed staff better able to handle the job than the provincial Public Utilities Commission. He said local telephone company managements are responsive to suggestions for improved service within the province.

Dowell to Greet Tokyo Citizens

Ald. Arthur Dowell will extend the greetings of the citizens of Victoria to the citizens of Tokyo next Wednesday.

He will do so at a Tokyo rugby game between Japanese and B.C. representative teams, and will also present the mayor of Tokyo with a B.C. centennial dollar mounted in plastic.

Alderman and Mrs. Dowell will leave Sunday on a tour which will take them to Tokyo, Hong Kong, Ceylon, India and back to Japan, returning to Victoria in May.

Bias Against Non-Whites Laid to B.C. Pulp Firms

British Columbia's pulp and paper industry discriminates against non-white workers, John Squire (CCF, Alberni) suggested in the legislature yesterday.

During discussion of the estimates for the department of labor, Mr. Squires made a formal request to Labor Minister Lyle Wicks to investigate the matter.

"I say no more, Mr. Minister," he said, "but to my knowledge everybody in the pulp and paper industry has a white skin."

Replying, Mr. Wicks said that to his knowledge there was no discrimination, but promised an investigation if Mr. Squire could supply further information.

Mr. Squire told The Daily Colonist later that he expects to again bring the matter before Mr. Wicks today.

Ferber to Speak At Power Probe

B.C. Comptroller-General Charles Ferber is expected to testify today when the Shrum Royal Commission probing B.C. Power Commission operations reopens at the Empress Hotel.

Ross Will Take Salute

Lieutenant-Governor Frank M. Ross has consented to take the salute in the Victoria Day parade, Ald. Geoffrey Edgelow, chairman of the Greater Victoria Celebrations Association, said yesterday.

Cunningham Drug Store Plans to Move Soon

Cunningham drug store at Fort and Douglas will move soon—to Fort and Douglas.

Cunningham's Drug Stores Ltd. has bought from E. D. McEwen Ltd. the store portion of McEwen's, and will move across the road by April 1, an official said yesterday.

Price was not disclosed, but Ald. McEwen will have a one-third interest in the new store, he said.